

Milwaukee Water Works



Milwaukee's Future: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

www.milwaukee.gov/2010census

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“Fix a Leak Week” March 15–21, 2010

Drinking water utilities across the country this week are asking consumers to avoid wasting water by finding and fixing household leaks. The Milwaukee Water Works, serving Milwaukee and 15 other communities, is promoting “Fix a Leak Week,” March 15 - 21. Fix a Leak Week is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) WaterSense® program.

A new [“Use Water Wisely”](#) section of the Milwaukee Water Works website offers advice and downloadable worksheets on how to identify and repair dripping faucets, running toilets, and leaky showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and can be installed easily. Here are a few water-saving tips:

- Repair faucet and showerhead leaks by checking washers and gaskets for wear.
- Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Place a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank and wait 15 minutes before flushing. If the color shows up in the bowl, there is a leak. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that saves hundreds of gallons of water.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Check landscape irrigation systems each spring to make sure they are not damaged by frost or freezing.
- If you must replace a plumbing fixture, look for the WaterSense label. These WaterSense-labeled toilets, faucets, and (soon) showerheads have been independently tested and certified to save water.

Water + Sewer Charges Add Up

Milwaukee has low rates for fresh, safe drinking water compared with the rest of the U.S. The EPA says Americans on average pay \$500 a year for municipal drinking water. Even with a rate increase later this year, the average household water bill in Milwaukee will be about \$200 a year.

But leaks add up quickly. Both the City of Milwaukee Local Sewerage Charge and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Sewer Treatment Usage Charge are based on the amount of water that passes through the water meter. Customers pay water and sewer charges whether they used the water or it dripped, leaked and was wasted.

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Safe, Abundant Drinking Water.

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- A toilet that overflows one gallon every five minutes will waste 288 gallons per day, costing \$129.00 each billing quarter: Water Charge (\$47.00); + MMSD Charge (\$43.00) + City of Milwaukee Local Sewerage Charge (\$39.00) = \$129.00

How much is too much water down the drain?

The average single family residence in Milwaukee typically uses 19 Ccf (Ccf=100 cubic feet, or 748 gallons) of water per billing quarter. That's 14,212 gallons. Check your bill [online](#) for quarterly water use in Ccf and compare the amounts through the year. If you are using much more than that each quarter, you may have water leaks.

www.milwaukee.gov/water

Collaborating with Clean Wisconsin

The Milwaukee Water Works and the Clean Wisconsin environmental advocacy organization have been working collaboratively since last fall to help customers reduce wasted water and conserve the valuable resource.

Service Area

The Milwaukee Water Works provides drinking water to all or part of these communities: Brown Deer, Butler, Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, Menomonee Falls, Mequon, Milwaukee, New Berlin, Shorewood, St. Francis, Thiensville, Wauwatosa, West Allis, and West Milwaukee.

A National Leader in Water Quality

The Milwaukee Water Works is recognized by the EPA as a leader in providing high quality drinking water and monitoring water quality. The City of Milwaukee-owned utility treats Lake Michigan water with a multiple-step process including ozone disinfection which removes illness-causing microorganisms and contaminants.

Since 1998, the Milwaukee Water Works has invested \$227 million in its infrastructure, from treatment plants to distribution systems, to ensure high quality drinking water and reliable supply.

For more information on Fix a Leak Week, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.

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